



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
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<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

April 30, 2009

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MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

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Third District

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Fourth District

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Fifth District

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name and title.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM'S LACK OF INVOLVEMENT IN INNOVATIVE EXHIBITIONS

At the Board of Supervisors' meeting held on April 21, 2009, Supervisor Antonovich requested a report from this Office regarding the Natural History Museum's (NHM) lack of involvement in innovative exhibitions. Please see the attached memorandum from Jane Pisano, Director of the Natural History Museum, in response to Supervisor Antonovich's request. The memorandum provides your Board with NHM's current and future plans for their exhibition galleries.

Should you have questions regarding this memorandum, please contact me, or your staff may contact Montessa Duckett at (213) 893-2292, or via email at mduckett@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTS:LS
RG:MD:kd

Attachment

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Acting County Counsel
Director of the Natural History Museum

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"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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Intra-County Correspondence Sent Electronically Only**

Natural History Museum


of Los Angeles County
900 Exposition Boulevard • Los Angeles, CA 90007

April 27, 2009

Dr. Jane G. Pisano
President & Director

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jpisano@nhm.org

To: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

From: Jane G. Pisano 
Director

Subject: **Supervisor Antonovich Referral from Board Meeting
on Tuesday, April 21, 2009**

In response to Supervisor Antonovich's motion on Tuesday, April 21, 2009:

In 2006, the Natural History Museum (NHM) began a multi-year project to seismically retrofit and renovate its historic 1913 Building and portions of the 1920's Buildings. This project also includes renovation of 7 exhibit galleries in the Museum. As a result of this on-going capital project, the 1913 Building and portions of the 1920's Buildings are closed. This includes the exhibit gallery used to house temporary exhibits from other museums because it must temporarily serve as a staging area for dinosaurs and other specimens that will be displayed in the newly renovated galleries. The entire project is scheduled to be completed in the year 2012.

At present, the NHM has no adequate space to accommodate a visiting temporary exhibit. Further, the Museum cannot bear the high costs of visiting temporary exhibits at this time. The Museum has chosen instead to focus its fundraising on improvements to the building and new permanent exhibits.

The Museum is planning to resume its visiting temporary exhibit program upon completion of the new permanent galleries. In the meantime, the Museum has opened two innovative temporary exhibits of its own world class collections: Thomas the T.rex Lab; and Visible Vault: Archaeological Treasures from Ancient Latin America. The Museum is also presenting two perennial favorites that are temporary exhibits: Butterfly Pavilion and Spider Pavilion. These temporary exhibits plus innovative new programming have helped offset the inconvenience of gallery closures. I'm pleased to report that our attendance is holding steady.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me at 213/763-3301.

JGP:mg

c: Lari Sheehan